

# MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

RELEASED: APRIL 2005

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 4

This Issue:

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
CHICKENS & EGGS  
MILK PRODUCTION  
PROSPECTIVE PLANTING-INTENTIONS  
'March Ag Survey Results'  
UNITED STATES GRAIN STOCKS  
EGG PRODUCTS  
ANNUAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION  
CATTLE ON FEED

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

**WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production** during February 2005 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 32 percent from February 2004, and down 28 percent from January 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 605,000 pounds live weight, down 27 percent from February 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 974 pounds, was down 15 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 124,000 pounds live weight, down 29 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 265 pounds, was up 5 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**UNITED STATES- Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.42 billion pounds in February, up 1 percent from the 3.40 billion pounds produced in February 2004.

**Beef production**, at 1.77 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.34 million head, down 4 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 12.1 million pounds, 16 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,900 head, down 13 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was 8 pounds below last year, at 328 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, 3 percent above February 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from February 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 215,000 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from February a year ago.

**January to February 2005 commercial red meat production** was 7.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

**February 2004** contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**February 2005** contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

## CHICKENS & EGGS

### February Egg Production Up 3 Percent

**U.S. egg production** totaled 6.91 billion during February 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 5.90 billion table eggs, and 1.01 billion hatching eggs, of which 956 million were broiler-type and 58 million were egg-type. The **total number of layers** during February 2005 averaged 349 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,980 eggs, down 3 percent from February 2004.

**All layers** in the U.S. on March 1, 2005, totaled 349 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2005, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

**February 2005** contained 28 days, while **February 2004** contained 29 days due to the leap year.

### Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 3 Percent

**Egg-type chicks** hatched during February totaled 32.9 million, up 3 percent from February 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.7 million on March 1, 2005, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 208,000 during February 2005, down 27 percent from February 2004.

### Broiler Hatch Up Slightly

The February 2005 hatch of **broiler-type chicks**, at 731 million, was up slightly from February of the previous year. There were 659 million eggs in incubators on March 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.21 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2005, down 2 percent from February 2004.

## MILK PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA**--Milk production in West Virginia totaled 48 million pounds during the January - March quarter of 2005. This was down 2 million pounds from the same quarter last year and unchanged from the October - December 2004 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

**UNITED STATES**--Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 43.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.00 million head, 2,000 head more than the same period last year.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTING- INTENTIONS 'March Ag Survey Results'

**WEST VIRGINIA** -- **Corn** plantings in West Virginia are expected to total 50,000 acres, up 4% or 2,000 acres from 2004 and 2003.

**Winter wheat** planted area is estimated at 7,000 acres, down 12% or 1,000 acres from 2004 and down 42% or 5,000 acres from 2003.

**Soybeans** planted acreage is expected to total 19,000 acres, unchanged from 2004, but up 19% or 3,000 acres from 2003.

### Soybeans: Asian Rust's Impact on Planting Intentions for Soybean Farm Operators who are Aware of Rust by Region and United States, March 2005

Region <sup>1</sup>	Was Asian Rust a factor in your planting intentions?			
	Yes	If so, how did your intentions change?		
		Increase	Decrease	No Change
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Northeast	12	16	44	40
Great Lake States	9	14	45	41
Corn Belt	10	7	47	46
Northern Plains	11	12	48	40
Appalachian	13	2	55	43
Southeast	29	4	63	33
Delta States	19	5	63	32
Southern Plains	15	6	55	39
US	11	9	49	42

<sup>1/</sup> Regions consist of the following States: Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV; Corn Belt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH; Delta States: AR, LA, MS; Great Lake States: MI, MN, WI; Northeast: DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA; Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD; Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC; Southern Plains: OK, TX.

**Burley tobacco** growers intend to harvest 700 acres, down 46% or 600 acres from 2004 and down 42% or 500 acres from 2003.

**All hay** acreage harvested is expected to total 560,000 acres, down 3% or 15,000 acres from 2004, but up 3% or 15,000 acres from 2003.

### UNITED STATES WITH 2004 COMPARISONS

- Corn plantings - 81.4 million acres, up 1 %.
- Oat plantings - 4.27 million acres, up 4%.
- Winter wheat planted - 41.6 million acres, down 4%.
- All tobacco for harvest - 319,860 acres, down 22%, lowest on record.
- Burley tobacco for harvest - 108,300 acres, down 30%.
- Soybean plantings - 73.9 million acres, down 2%.
- Sorghum plantings - 7.4 million acres, down 1%.
- Barley plantings - 3.97 million acres, down 12%.
- All hay for harvest - 62.9 million acres, up 2%.

The acreage of biotechnology varieties of corn and soybeans intended to be planted is no longer included in this report. Estimates will continue to be published in the June Acreage report.

## UNITED STATES GRAIN STOCKS

**UNITED STATES – Corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 6.75 billion bushels, up 28 percent from March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 stocks level since 1988. Of the total stocks, 4.14 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 37 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.62 billion bushels, are up 17 percent from a year ago. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance is 2.70 billion bushels, compared with 2.68 billion bushels during the same period last year.

**Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 52 percent from March 1, 2004. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 795 million bushels, up 123 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 586 million bushels, are up 7 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2004 - February 2005 quarter totaled 924 million bushels, up 18 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 981 million bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 305 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 676 million bushels, are down 11 percent from a year ago. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance is 449 million bushels, down 10 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**Durum wheat** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 55.3 million bushels, up 25 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 35.2 million bushels, are up 42 percent from March 1, 2004. Off-farm stocks totaled 20.1 million bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance of 23.3 million bushels is up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**Barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 191 million bushels, up 25 percent from March 1, 2004. On-farm stocks are estimated at 79.7 million bushels, 54 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 111 million bushels, are 10 percent above March 1, 2004. Indicated disappearance during the December 2004 - February 2005 quarter totaled 55.3 million bushels, up 23 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**Oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 82.5 million bushels, 13 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2004. Of the total stocks on hand, 43.5 million bushels are stored on farms, 5 percent lower than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 39.0 million bushels, 21 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during December 2004 - February 2005 totaled 22.4 million bushels, compared with 24.3 million bushels from the same period a year ago.

**Grain sorghum** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 203 million bushels, up 28 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 33.4 million bushels, are up 59 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 170 million bushels, are up 23 percent from March 1, 2004. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance from all positions is 78.8 million bushels, up 2 percent from the same period a year ago.

**Sunflower** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled

861 million pounds. All stocks stored on farms totaled 166 million pounds and off-farm stocks totaled 695 million pounds. This is the first time estimates have been provided for March 1 sunflower stocks and were initiated by a request from the sunflower industry. Stocks of oil type sunflower seed were 616 million pounds, 139 million pounds on-farm and 477 million pounds off-farm. Non-oil sunflower stocks totaled 247 million pounds, with 27.7 million pounds being stored on the farm and 219 million pounds off the farm.

## EGG PRODUCTS

### Shell Eggs Broken Up 9 Percent

**Shell eggs** broken totaled 155 million dozen during February 2005, up 9 percent from February a year ago.

February 2005 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays, the same as February 2004. February 2004 was a leap year with the 29th being a Sunday.

During calendar year 2005, shell eggs broken totaled 315 million dozen, up 9 percent from the 288 million dozen broken in 2004. Total edible liquid from eggs broken in 2005 was 408 million pounds, up 11 percent from 2004.

## ANNUAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION

### Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 3 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during 2004 totaled 9.33 billion, up 3 percent from 2003. This record level continues the trend of annual increases begun in 1975.

Leading breeders had intended placements of 83.9 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

### 19-State Broiler Placements Up 3 Percent

Placements of broiler chicks in the 19-State weekly program totaled 8.91 billion during the 52 week period ending January 1, 2005, up 3 percent from the 52 week period ending December 27, 2003.

### Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 5 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during 2004 totaled 437 million, up 5 percent from 2003.

Leading breeders had intended placements of 3.00 million egg-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during 2004, down 6 percent from 2003.

### Turkey Poults Placed Down 4 Percent

Turkey hatcheries placed 277 million poults in the United

States during 2004. These placements were down 4 percent from 2003.

### Hatchery Capacity

The capacity of chicken hatcheries on January 1, 2005 was 877 million eggs, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

The capacity of turkey hatcheries was 41.2 million eggs on January 1, 2005, down 8 percent from January 1, 2004.

## CATTLE ON FEED

### U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2004 and 6 percent above March 1, 2003.

**Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 6 percent below 2004 and 8 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Net placements

were 1.45 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 277,000, 600-699 pounds were 308,000, 700-799 pounds were 526,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 412,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.63 million, 4 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 76,000 during February, 10 percent above 2004 and 7 percent above 2003.

To obtain a complete copy of any release published in this publication, please go to [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on publications. You may subscribe to receive an e-mail copy of all West Virginia releases, specific commodities releases, or just print a complete copy of a specific release.

### Next Issue:

Livestock Slaughter  
Chickens & Eggs  
May Crop Production  
Milk Production, Disposition, and Income  
Poultry Production and Value  
Annual Hatchery Production  
Meat Animal PDI

DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
West Virginia Statistical Office  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305